the Japanese were to retire north of that barrier. This truce was in effect a treaty of peace by which Nanking tacitly acquiesced in Japan's position in Manchuria. In Manchuria Japanese were building railways which would greatly diminish the importance of the Chinese Eastern and were negotiating with the Russians for the purchase of that line. Except for bandits, armed opposition to the new regime of Manchoukuo had been crushed.

The year 1933 did not mark any sharp dividing line in Sino-Japanese relations. The Japanese army was clearly intent on using its enhanced control of Manchuria as a preliminary to further advances both southward and westward.

In this Japan was actuated in part by distrust of Russia. Russia was deemed the most probable menace to Japanese plans. Russian Communism was feared. It was, presumably, with the purpose of checkmating Russia that the Japanese army pressed westward into Inner Mongolia, and thus sought to outflank a possible Russian attack through Outer Mongolia. In December, 1932, diplomatic relations between China and Russia, which had suffered from the conflicts of 1927 and 1929, were reestablished, and this Japan viewed with suspicion as incipient combination against her. To be sure, the Chinese Eastern Railway was removed as a bone of contention. In March, 1935, after long negotiations, Russia sold to Japan her holdings in the line and thus surrendered the sphere of interest in the northern part of Manchuria which she had held since the 1890's. Yet friction was frequent on the borders between Japanese-controlled Manchuria on the one hand and the Russian Far Eastern provinces and Russian-aligned Outer Mongolia on the other. Russia made it clear that

any encroachment on Outer Mongolia would not be tolerated.

Armed clashes were frequent in the second half of the 1930's and in 1938 serious fighting occurred near the corner where Manchuria, Siberia, and Korea met. In November, 1936, Japan and Germany entered into an anti-comintern pact, clearly aimed at Russia, and in August, 1937, China and Russia signed a non-aggression pact, quite obviously as a warning to Japan. However, neither Russia nor any other of the powers was as yet willing to undertake war with Japan on behalf of China.

After 1933 Japan continued to strengthen its hold on Manchuria and to develop the resources of the region in its own in-